

REMARKS

Prior to the Non-Final Office Action dated December 14, 2006, Claims 1-42 were pending. In that Office Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 32-41; rejected Claims 1-17, 20-31, and 42; and objected to Claims 18 and 19.

In the present Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 14, and 16 without prejudice, and has made formal/clerical (non-substantive) amendments to Claims 2-9, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20-22, 24-27, 32, 36, 38, 41, and 42. Accordingly, after entry of the amendment, Claims 2-13, 15, and 18-42 will be pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to Claims 18 and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As set forth below, Applicant has rewritten Claim 18 so that it is in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Following that amendment, Claim 19 depends from such an independent claim (Claim 18) and the Examiner's rejection of Claim 19 is therefore moot and/or overcome.

Claim Objections

In addition, in par. 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to a number of the claims for informal spelling and typographical errors. Applicant has attempted to amend each of those noted by the Examiner, and also noted and amended a similar typographical error in Claim 36 (as with Claim 18, "verse" should have been "versus", as was apparent to the Examiner).

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 12, 24, 25, 38 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §112, as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner rejected those claims based on Applicant's use of the phrase "can be". Applicant has amended that language.

35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected various claims on the basis of 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. Applicant has cancelled without prejudice various claims and amended others of the claims, and respectfully submits that the remaining pending claims now all either have already been indicated allowable or now depend from such an "indicated allowable" claim. Accordingly, Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance, notice whereof is respectfully requested of the Examiner.